

**Statement of the Director General Mr. LI Yong
during the handover ceremony of the Group of 77 and China
on Wednesday, 12th February 2020 in C-3**

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and honour to be here today for the sixth handover ceremony of the Group of 77 and China since I assumed office.

Let me begin by congratulating **Ambassador SIVAGURUNATHAN** from Malaysia, who will start the Chairpersonship for the first half of the year, and **Ambassador NATIVIDAD** from the Philippines, who will take over in July 2020, on their respective assumption as Chairpersons of the G-77 Vienna Chapter for this year.

I also wish to extend my gratitude to **Ambassador YOUSSEF** from Egypt for his commendable leadership as Chairperson of the Group during 2019, and wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

I also want to thank the Group for its continuous support and excellent cooperation that contributed to the positive results of the policymaking organs' sessions in 2019. The UNIDO **General Conference** in Abu Dhabi and the adoption of the **Abu Dhabi Declaration** were surely among the highlights of the past year. As you know, the Abu Dhabi Declaration highlights the role of the **private sector** for development and the role of UNIDO as platform for cooperation with the private sector. It also draws attention to the **Fourth Industrial Revolution**, and calls upon UNIDO to harness its potential while minimizing the risks. Both, private sector cooperation and the Fourth Industrial Revolution, are of critical importance for the Organization and in particular, to its developing member countries. It is also an area that I believe the Group can contribute to, with its knowledge and development experience.

In 2020, we will therefore direct our efforts towards defining common UNIDO-wide strategies in both areas in order to support our Member States as one, relevant and useful Organization.

I would further like to highlight the strong interest expressed by the Group in General Conference Resolution for UNIDO's **Programme for Country**

Partnership. The PCP approach is a great example of UNIDO's management objective "**integration and scale-up**", as it allows us to leverage different streams of resources to support our Member States in achieving **inclusive and sustainable development**. I am therefore pleased to note that the PCP portfolio expanded to 10 countries during the past year. New PCPs were initiated in Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Rwanda and Zambia. In addition, Kenya has indicated its interest in working with UNIDO on a self-starter PCP. In 2020, we will respond to the request expressed by the Group to facilitate knowledge sharing and peer learning among current and prospective PCP countries and we will start to build on the lessons and recommendations of the independent terminal evaluations of PCP Ethiopia and PCP Senegal.

2019 was also an important year for UNIDO as the lead agency of the **Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa**. We were given the opportunity to showcase the contribution of ISID to structural transformation in Africa at the highest levels, including at the G20 meetings and the TICAD 7 conference. We also operationalized our IDDA III Championship and focal point initiatives. Eight African Heads of State and Government are now IDDA III Champions, and 28 institutions engaged with us on the focal point initiative. In 2020, we will step up our efforts to advance the implementation of IDDA III in close cooperation with our partners, including the African Development Bank, the IMF and the World Bank.

At the global level, the implementation of the **UNDS reform** in 2020 will require our active and close involvement at the country level, working with the UN Country team, raising awareness of Resident Coordinators and local governments about UNIDO. In view of the large number of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks being developed in 2020, we will need to engage on many fronts. In this regard, we will strengthen the connection between our field network and headquarters to ensure the strategic positioning of UNIDO. Your support and engagement in this area will be valuable as the economic dimension is further integrated with the social and environmental aspects.

The year 2020 marks the **75th anniversary** of the United Nations. At the same time, the UN Global Decade of Action launched last month reminds us that we only have 10 years left to achieve the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. To achieve the SDGs, we will continue to **integrate and scale-up** our work in close cooperation with our Member States. We therefore continue to count on the support of the Group in 2020 and beyond.

Let me close by reiterating my most sincere congratulations to the new Chairpersonship of the Group. I wish you every success for your tenure. Please be

assured of UNIDO's commitment in continuing the support and facilitation of the work of the G-77 Vienna Chapter – UNIDO has been doing this for the last 22 years and look forward to further expansion of this support as we work together with the other agencies based here in Vienna to contribute to the functioning of this important office.

Thank you.